



April 9, 2004

West Warwick man admits to Cranston bank robbery

David F. Houlihan, of West Warwick, has pleaded guilty to a federal bank robbery charge, admitting that he robbed tellers at a Citizens Bank branch on Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston in November.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty verdict, which Houlihan entered yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence. Houlihan, 43, of 855 Providence Street, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for July 2.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that, on November 22, Houlihan entered the Citizens branch at 965 Oaklawn Avenue and handed a teller a note demanding money. He fled with \$3,566 and left the area in a red car driven by another man. That car was found abandoned a short while later in the parking lot of Temple Sinai on Hagan Avenue.

A few days after the robbery, Cranston Police received a tip from Rhode Island State Police that Houlihan might be the robber. Tellers at the bank identified Houlihan from a photograph and detectives arrested him on November 27.

The statutory maximum penalty for bank robbery is 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background.

-more-

Cranston Police and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the case, with assistance from the **Rhode Island State Police**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee is prosecuting the case.

-30-

Contact: 401-528-5224

E-mail: thomas.connell@usdoj.gov